

WEST LAFAYETTE POLICE MERIT COMMISSION
MINUTES
October 8, 2007

The West Lafayette Police Merit Commission met in regular session at City Hall Council Chambers on October 8, 2007 at 7:30 pm. In compliance with the Indiana Open Door Law, notice of this regular meeting was sent to the media and posted. Copies of the meeting agenda and unapproved minutes of the September 10, 2007 Executive Session and September 10, 2007 Regular Meeting were available at a table adjacent to the entrance to the Council Chambers.

Police Merit Commission President Polles called the meeting to order and presided.

The Pledge of Allegiance was repeated.

PRESENT: Commissioners Don Corrigan, Larry Leverenz, Virginia Nead, John Polles and Joel Weber.

ALSO PRESENT: Commission Counsel Williams and one member of the Police Department. No members of the public or the media were present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. Commissioner Corrigan moved "approval of the Executive Session minutes of 10 September 2007." The motion was unanimously adopted.
- B. Commissioner Nead moved "that we accept the minutes of the 10 September 2007 meeting." The motion was unanimously adopted.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Commission President Polles led a discussion of the wording of the second sentence of Police Merit Commission Rules and Regulations Article I.C.(2). As written, the second sentence appears contrary to the Open Door Law in that three Commissioners calling a special meeting by joint action would in and of itself constitute a meeting. Commissioner Corrigan moved to revise the second sentence of Article I.C.(2) to read, "A special meeting may be called by the joint action of two (2) members of the Commission." The motion was unanimously passed. The rest of the article is unchanged.
- B. Commission President Polles led a discussion of the merits of the current weights found in Article II.D.(4) for scoring applicants for the Eligibility List and whether these weights should be revised. Police Department input was provided by Lieutenant Dombkowski based on his polling of the eleven Field Training Officers. Commissioner Leverenz moved "to change the scoring weights of Article II.D.(4) to be Examination - 20%; Criminal Background Check - 10%; Internal Police Interview - 35%; Commission Interview - 35%." The motion was unanimously passed. Commissioner Leverenz was requested to outline the procedures to be used in scoring applicants, including criteria such as a felony conviction that would disqualify an applicant from continuing with the next step in the process.

- C. Commission President Polles discussed the need for a new contract between the Police Merit Commission and the Psychology Department of Purdue University for the preparation of annual advancement examinations. The original contract expired in May 2006 and did not address future advancement examination production. Since that time additional advancement examinations have been prepared and compensation needs to be provided for the service rendered. Commissioner Corrigan was requested to contact the Psychology Department Business Office and provide input to Counsel for the preparation of a new contract.
- D. Commission President Polles reported that new applicant testing will occur at the West Lafayette Junior-Senior High School at 9:00 am on Saturday, October 13, 2007. Applications have been received from 71 candidates.
- E. Commission President Polles reported that the Sergeant's Advancement Examination will be given at the originally announced time and date, namely 3:00 pm on Saturday, November 3, 2007 in the Police Training Room. To date, eight officers have signed up to take the examination. With the numbers of officers that have signed up, it is not practical to move the exam to a different date as requested by one officer.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. After checking personal calendars, it was decided that the dates for new applicant interviews would be determined at the Commission's November regular meeting.
- B. Commission President Polles reported that one of the two applicants undergoing the hiring process has been approved by PERF and will be sworn in on October 30, 2007. The other applicant is in the process of PERF review.
- C. Commissioner Weber recommended that the 2008 schedule of Police Merit Commission meetings wait until December to be finalized as the meeting location may have to be adjusted based on the scheduled meetings of the West Lafayette Common Council. The 2008 Common Council schedule is not yet finalized.
- D. Commissioner Lererenz was appointed by Commission President Polles to represent the Commission on the Awards Board that was created by the revised Article VI, Merit Awards, approved at the September 10, 2007 Regular Meeting.

ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR

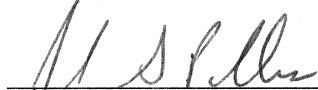
- A. Commissioner Leverenz reported that the Tippecanoe Evangelical Association of Ministers and Ministries (TEAMM) is sponsoring a special service to honor our local law enforcement personnel. Chuck Ferrara, a police chaplain, ordained minister and author of *Beyond the Badge*, will speak on Monday, October 29, 7:00 pm, at Dayton United Methodist Church. All are welcome.
- B. Commissioner Corrigan led a discussion concerning the conduct of Executive Sessions and how long personnel presenting information to the Commission should be permitted to attend the session.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

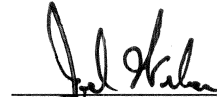
A. Lieutenant Dombkowski provided an update on the four probationary officers that are on the Police Department roster.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:43 pm.



John Polles
President



Joel Weber
Secretary

WEST LAFAYETTE POLICE MERIT COMMISSION
Meeting Agenda, 8 October 2007
7:30 P.M., Council Chambers, City Hall

Opening

Pledge of Allegiance
Roll Call
Approval of Minutes for Executive Session on 10 September 2007
Approval of Minutes for Meeting on 10 September 2007

Old Business

Discussion of the wording in Article I.C. (2) of WLPMC R&R that might be in contravention of the Open Door Law (Commissioner Polles)
Discussion of changing Article II.D. (4) of WLPMC R&R concerning scoring the applicant for the eligibility list (Polles)
Status of a new contract with Industrial Psychology Department of Purdue University promotion tests preparation (Polles)
Update on new applicant testing (Chief Marvin)
Update on sergeant's exam testing (Polles)

New Business

Setting dates for new applicant interviews (Polles)
Update on the two 'named' applicants (Polles)
Setting the meeting dates for CY2008 (Commissioner Weber)

Items from the Floor

The Tippecanoe Evangelical Association of Ministers and Ministries (TEAMM) is sponsoring a special service to honor our local law enforcement personnel. Chuck Ferrara, a police chaplain, ordained minister and author of *Beyond the Badge*, will speak Monday, October 29, 7 PM, at Dayton United Methodist Church. All are welcome. (Commissioner Leverenz)

Public Comments

Adjournment